

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 HEW-06 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-14

EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 OIC-02 /095 W

-----018726 221100Z /16

R 221028Z JUN 7

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1200

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09490

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (IYC): PLANS
FOR OBSERVANCE BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN GENEVA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT OF TWO MEETINGS CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MARSHALING GENEVA'S INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF THE IYC IN 1979. THE MEETINGS WERE INITIATED BY MISSION GENEVA. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. ON MAY 10, AMBASSADOR WILLIAM VANDEN HEUVEL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS INVITED SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GENEVA MISSIONS TO A LUNCHEON WHERE HE RAISED WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSIDERING A ONE DAY EVENT IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD IN 1979 (IYC). ACTIVITIES FOR THE DAY WOULD BE PLANNED AND CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE IYC SECRETARIAT AND THE GENEVA CANTON. FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS, BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE IYC WAS PROVIDED BY THE I.Y.C. SECRETARIAT WHO WERE ALSO GUESTS AT THE LUNCHEON.

3. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AMONG THE GROUP THAT SOME TYPE OF OBSERVANCE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE SINCE IT WOULD SHOW
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SUPPORT OF UNICEF AND PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SEVERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION'S PROJECTS. AFTER A DISCUSSION OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF ACTIVITIES POSSIBLE, THE LUNCHEON PARTICIPANTS DECIDED THAT A FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE HELD WITH A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF PERMANENT MISSIONS TO DETERMINE IF THERE WAS AN INTEREST IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SPONSOR AN

OBSERVANCE AND, IF SO, WHAT THE MODUS OPERANDI SHOULD BE:

4. ON JUNE 6, REPRESENTATIVES FROM 18 PERMANENT MISSIONS MET AND DISCUSSED A VARIETY OF ISSUES CONCERNING AN IYC OBSERVANCE. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT A ONE DAY EVENT WAS DESIRABLE AND IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE PURPOSE OF SUCH AN OBSERVANCE SHOULD BE:

1) TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT UNICEF AND THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD, AND 2) TO RAISE FUNDS FOR UNICEF PROJECTS.

5. IN ADDITION THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED:

1) DATE OF THE OBSERVANCE: ALTHOUGH NO DEFINITE DATE WAS SET, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE OBSERVANCE SHOULD NOT BE HELD DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST WHEN MANY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ARE ON HOLIDAYS AND SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED.

2) TYPES OF ACTIVITIES: A. A FOOTBALL GAME FEATURING THE INTERNATIONAL STAR PELE WAS ONE SUGGESTION; B. A KERMESSE WHERE EACH MISSION WOULD MAKE IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS (WINE, MAPLE SYRUP, NATIONAL DISHES) WHICH WOULD BE SOLD AND PROCEEDS CONTRIBUTED TO UNICEF; C. A PARADE.

3) FUNDING: MEMBERS OF THE GROUP QUESTIONED FUNDING OF AN IYC EVENT AND SOME WANTED TO KNOW EXACT COSTS FOR EACH MISSION IN ORDER TO INFORM THEIR CAPITALS. OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICIPANTS MADE THE POINT THAT BEFORE GOING TO CAPITALS ABOUT FUNDING THE ACTIVITY, THE GENEVA COMMUNITY SHOULD EXPLORE WHAT COULD BE DONE IN GENEVA BY THE GENEVA COMMUNITY AT MINIMUM COST. IT WAS STRESSED, BY SEVERAL MEMBERS, THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE OBSERVANCE SHOULD BE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS AND, THEREFORE, COSTS WOULD BE MINIMAL.

4) WHO PARTICIPATES: IT WAS AGREED THAT PARTICIPATION OF THE TOTAL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD BE DESIRABLE. IT WAS STRESSED THAT A CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF IYC SHOULD HAVE CHILDREN AS THE MAJOR PROTAGONISTS WITH ADULT PROGRAMS TAKING SECOND PLACE.

5) ORGANIZATION: THE GROUP CONCURRED THAT AN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FORMED FROM THOSE MISSIONS WHO DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT.

6) NEXT STEPS: SEVERAL OF THE REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO PARTICIPATING IN AN IYC OBSERVANCE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO TO THEIR CAPITALS FOR INSTRUCTIONS. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS, PLANNING FOR THE EVENT WILL CONTINUE WITH ALL MISSIONS THAT WANT TO VOLUNTEER THEIR SERVICES. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM SHOULD

NOTIFY MS. GLORIA GASTON-SHAPIO AT THE
UNITED STATES MISSION OR MR. HELMER GRANN AT THE IYC
SECRETARIAT NOT LATER THAN JULY 7.

6. FOLLOWING MISSIONS PARTICIPATED IN MAY MEETING:

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| DENMARK | COLOMBIA |
| JAPAN | FRANCE |
| CANADA | IVORY COAST |

7. FOLLOWING MISSIONS PARTICIPATED IN JUNE MEETING:

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 HEW-06 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-14

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| IRAN | GHANA |
| FRANCE | ITALY |
| SWITZERLAND | SWEDEN |
| DENMARK | NEW ZEALAND |
| FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY | AUSTRALIA |
| JAPAN | UNITED KINGDOM |
| COLOMBIA | TURKEY |
| NIGERIA | |
| SORENSEN | |

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NNN

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Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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